

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A ceramic catalyst body wherein a catalyst component is loaded onto a ceramic support having a large number of pores that enable particles of the catalyst to be loaded directly onto a base ceramic surface of the ceramic support, wherein the mean particle size of the catalyst particles is 100 nm or less.

2. (Original) The ceramic catalyst body according to claim 1, wherein the mean particle size of the catalyst particles is 50 nm or less.

3. (Currently amended) The ceramic catalyst body according to claim 1, wherein the pores are comprised of at least one type of defect in the ceramic crystal lattice, microcracks in the base ceramic surface and a deficiency in an element that composes the ceramic.

4. (Original) The ceramic catalyst body according to claim 3, wherein the width of the microcracks is 100 nm or less.

5. (Currently amended) The ceramic catalyst body according to claim 3, wherein the diameter, or width, of the pores is 1000 times or less the diameter of the catalyst ions that are loaded, and the number of the pores is $1 \times 10^{11}/L$ or more.

6. (Currently amended) The ceramic catalyst body according to claim 3, wherein the base ceramic surface has cordierite for its main component, and the pores are comprised of defects formed by substituting a portion of the constituent elements of the cordierite with a metal element having a different valence.

7. (Currently amended) The ceramic catalyst body according to claim 6, wherein the defects are composed of at least one type of oxygen defect and lattice ~~defect~~defects, and 4×10^{-6} % or more of cordierite crystals having one or more defects are contained in the unit crystal lattice of the cordierite.

8-11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The ceramic catalyst body ~~or ceramic body~~ according to claim 1, wherein the ~~large number of~~ pores are disposed evenly on the ~~surface of the base ceramic~~ surface.

13. (Currently amended) The ceramic catalyst body ~~or ceramic body~~ according to claim 1, wherein the ~~large number of~~ pores are ~~disposed~~ concentrated on ~~the~~ a surface layer portion of the base ceramic surface.

14. (Canceled)

a¹ 15. (Currently amended) The ceramic catalyst body according to claim 1, wherein ~~these~~
~~catalyst~~ particles of the catalyst that bond weakly with the support are removed in advance.

16-18 (Canceled)

a² 19. (New) A ceramic catalyst body, wherein a catalyst component is loaded onto a ceramic support of the ceramic catalyst body, wherein the ceramic support has a large number of pores that enable a catalyst to be loaded directly onto a base ceramic surface of the ceramic support, and wherein the base ceramic surface has cordierite for its main component, and a metal element, which is substituted for constituent elements of the cordierite, is at least one selected from Fe, Co, Ti, Zr, Ga, Ca, Y, Mo, Ge, W and Ce.